



**RIVERSIDE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
IN COOPERATION WITH  
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

**John R. Hawkins ~ Fire Chief**  
210 West San Jacinto Avenue ~ Perris, CA 92570  
(951) 940-6900 ~ [www.rvcfire.org](http://www.rvcfire.org)

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AND THE CITIES OF:

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**DOCKET**  
**09-AFC-10**

DATE MAY 04 2010  
RECD. MAY 13 2010

May 4, 2010

California Energy Commission  
Geoff Lesh  
1515 9<sup>th</sup> Street, MS 46  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Dear Mr. Lesh,

The following information includes responses to your questions identified in your letter dated March 18, 2010.

*1. Please provide the name and location (distance from site) of the two nearest fire stations to the proposed site and the estimated response time from the moment a call is made to arrival on site. Please also provide the number of staff per shift and the type of equipment (vehicles) at these stations.*

The two closest Riverside County Fire stations that would respond to an incident at the proposed Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10), located adjacent to the former Rice Army Airfield in Rice, CA are:

RCO Station # 49, Lake Tamarisk, 43880 Lake Tamarisk, Desert Center, CA. 92239

RCO Station # 43 Blythe, 140 West Barnard Street, Blythe, CA. 92225

Riverside County Fire Station 49 is located approximately 70 miles from the project site and the second Riverside County Fire Station is located approximately 75 miles from the proposed site.

From the above listed fire stations, the response time for engine 49 is approximately 1 hour after dispatch. The second unit, engine 43 will respond to the project area in approximately one hour 15 minutes. Riverside County Fire Department Fire Stations are staffed full-time, 24 hours/7 days a week, with a minimum 3 person crew, including Paramedics, operating a "Type-1" structural fire fighting apparatus.

*2. The applicant for the Rice Solar project stated that the Parker Fire Department, located in Parker, Arizona, approximately 32 miles east of the project site, could provide backup fire fighting support if needed. Please confirm this information.*

The Riverside County Fire Department is the Authority Having Jurisdiction and will provide the primary response to the project area.

*3. Is there a mutual aid agreement between the San Bernardino County Fire Department and the RCFD?*

Yes. However, there is an application for the utilization of Mutual Aid. *Mutual Aid* is utilized when an incident is likely to exceed, or had exceeded, the ability of a responsible entity to control the event. The basic assumptions are that the local government entity has taken *ALL* actions within its capabilities necessary to mitigate a potential or on-going disaster, and has reasonably exhausted local resources before requesting outside assistance through the California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid System.

*4. Please indicate how many firefighters at the RCFD are trained to at least Emergency Medical Technician Level 1 (EMT-1) and how many are trained paramedics. Also indicate how many personnel at the RCFD are trained as first responders to hazardous materials incidents and whether any of the nearby RCFD stations have a Hazardous Materials Response Team. If the RCFD has a local hazmat team, please provide its location and the estimated response times to the site. Please confirm this information.*

Riverside County Fire Department Fire Stations are staffed full-time, 24 hours/7 days a week, with a minimum 3 person crew, including Paramedics, operating "Type-1" structural fire fighting apparatus. Each member of the engine company is a certified Emergency Medical Technician and certified to the level of Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational, (HAZ MAT FRO). In the event of a hazardous materials incident, The Riverside County Fire Department Hazardous Materials Response Team will respond to the project area. The estimated response time is approximately 2 hours. The Hazardous Materials Response Team is located in the Palm Desert, CA.

Hazardous Materials Response Team # 81  
Station # 81, North Bermuda Dunes  
37-955 Washington Street  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

*5. Please indicate which version of the Fire Code is adopted by the RCFD (to my knowledge it is the 2007 California Fire Code) and whether there are other local regulations pertaining to worker safety and fire protection that would apply to this project.*

The County of Riverside has adopted the 2007 California Fire and the 2007 California Building Standards Code in their entirety for regulating and governing the safeguard of life and property from fire and explosion hazards arising from the storage, handling and use of hazards substances, materials and devices from conditions hazardous to life or property in the occupancy of buildings and premises in the County of Riverside, and providing for the issuance of permits and the collection of fees. Riverside County Ordinance No. 787 outlines fire protection standards for the safety, health, and welfare of the citizens of the County.



6. Please indicate whether you feel that the RCFD is adequately staffed and equipped to handle fires and emergencies at this proposed facility. Note that some hazardous and flammable materials such as acetylene welding gas would be stored at this project. Also note that heat transfer fluid flammable, as used in many other solar projects will not be used at this project. No flammable hazardous materials will be used in the solar arrays. Within the power block of the power plant, non-flammable molten salt and steam will be the working fluids. No natural gas would be used at the project. Propane would be used temporarily during initial commissioning (approximately 5 months). This project would have extensive fire protection systems and other protective measures to minimize the potential for fires and/or spills.

The proposed project will have a cumulative adverse impact on the Fire Department's ability to provide an acceptable level of service. These impacts include an increased number of emergency and public service calls due to the increased presence of structures, traffic and hazardous storage. In order to analyze the potential HAZ MAT impact to the fire departments level of service, a complete chemical classification inventory *shall be* required and submitted to the Planning and Engineering Bureau for review.

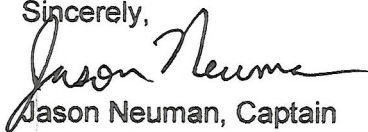
7. Please indicate whether you feel that this proposed project (either individually or cumulatively) would have a negative impact on your ability to serve your jurisdiction.

The proposed project's land use would be classified as a Category IV – Outlying. Based on the adopted Riverside County Fire Protection Master Plan, the Category IV – Outlying specifies that a *full* alarm assignment be operating on the fire ground within thirty minutes from dispatch and the fire station to be located within 8 miles. The primary stations serving the project area would *not* be within the 8 mile objective. The response times for the responding units are approximate and currently *do not* meet the Outlying Land Use Protection Goals.

The California Fire Code outlines fire protection standards for the safety, health, and welfare of the public. These standards will be enforced by the Fire Chief.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (951) 940-6349 or contact me at [jason.neumann@fire.ca.gov](mailto:jason.neumann@fire.ca.gov)

Sincerely,



Jason Neuman, Captain

Strategic Planning Division

Riverside County Fire Department